



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5571

LCO No. 1949

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING DAMAGES FOR THE UNLAWFUL KILLING OR
INJURING OF A COMPANION ANIMAL.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) For the purposes of
2 this section, "companion animal" means a domesticated, warm-
3 blooded animal that is normally maintained in or near the household
4 of its owner or keeper and is dependent on a person for food, shelter
5 and veterinary care, but does not include an animal kept for farming or
6 biomedical research practices.

7 (b) Any person who intentionally kills or injures a companion
8 animal, except as authorized by law, shall be liable to the owner of
9 such companion animal for economic damages sustained by such
10 owner including, but not limited to, expenses of veterinary care, the
11 fair monetary value of a deceased companion animal and burial
12 expenses for a deceased companion animal.

13 (c) In addition to any economic damages awarded pursuant to
14 subsection (b) of this section, the court may award punitive damages
15 in an amount not to exceed the jurisdictional monetary limit

16 established by subsection (d) of section 51-15 of the general statutes, as
17 amended, together with a reasonable attorney's fee.

18 (d) The provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall not apply to:
19 (1) A veterinarian licensed pursuant to chapter 384 of the general
20 statutes while following accepted standards of practice of the
21 profession, (2) the state or any political subdivision of the state or any
22 employee, officer or agent thereof while acting within the scope of
23 such employee's, officer's or agent's employment or official duties, or
24 (3) an employee of or volunteer for a nonprofit organization or
25 nonprofit corporation organized and operated exclusively for the
26 prevention of cruelty to animals or the protection of stray, abandoned
27 or mistreated animals while acting within the scope of such employee's
28 or volunteer's employment or duties.

29 Sec. 2. Section 22-351 of the general statutes is repealed and the
30 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

31 Any person who steals, confines or conceals any [dog] companion
32 animal, as defined in section 1 of this act, or who, with the intention of
33 stealing such [dog] companion animal or concealing its identity or the
34 identity of its owner or with the intention of concealing the fact that
35 the [dog] companion animal is licensed, removes the collar or harness
36 or tag from any licensed [dog] companion animal, or who unlawfully
37 kills or injures any [dog] companion animal, shall be fined not more
38 than [two hundred] one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than
39 six months or both, and shall also be liable to the owner in a civil
40 action, except that, if such person intentionally kills or injures any
41 companion animal, such person shall be liable to the owner in a civil
42 action as provided in section 1 of this act. For a second offense, or for
43 an offense involving more than one [dog] companion animal, any such
44 person shall be fined not more than [five hundred] two thousand
45 dollars or imprisoned not less than one year nor more than three years
46 or be both fined and imprisoned.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To permit an owner of a pet to bring a civil action against a person who has intentionally killed or injured such pet and recover economic and punitive damages.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]